

# Corporation for National and Community Service

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## AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

### Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 270,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 230,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including OPIOD abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

A primary goal for CNCS is to increase the impact and reach of national service in America's communities. In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

### Award Information

**Recipient:** Tioga Opportunities Inc.  
9 Sheldon Guile Boulevard  
Owego, NY 13827 – 1062  
(607) 687-4120

**Program Contact:** Christine Shaver, [cshaver@tiogaopp.org](mailto:cshaver@tiogaopp.org)

**Award Amount:** \$75,000 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)

**Target Geography:** Tioga County, New York

### **Program Summary:**

Tioga Opportunities Inc. will engage 75 RSVP volunteers in rural Tioga County where 60% of the residents live in remote towns or villages with limited transportation options, inhibiting their ability to go to a grocery store, food pantry or to their doctor's or hospital appointments. RSVP volunteers will deliver food to homebound older adults and individuals with disabilities. This food delivery service will have the added benefit of increasing social ties and perceived social support for these adults. RSVP volunteers will also provide transportation services for individuals without access to medical appointments, most of which are in neighboring counties. Increased access to medical appointments and other health care will result in improved health status and improved quality of life.